

**SITREP.11.03** □**SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY  
TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS  
(ETOPS) FOR NOVEMBER WITH A  
FORECAST TILL MID-JANUARY 2004****SUMMARY**

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update on the situation of emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America in November with a forecast till mid-January 2004. Key ETOPs, including locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating *Quelea* birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary and detailed accounts with a six-week forecast are provided thereafter.

**DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA  
GREGARIA* (FORSKAL)**

2. The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.), situation continued to develop in northwestern Mauritania, northern Mali, southern Morocco, and Niger throughout November. Active control operations were carried out from Senegal to Niger, Mauritania to Libya and from Egypt to Saudi Arabia where a combined total of 44,628 ha was treated in November. It is likely that locust numbers could increase and give rise to more swarms and groups in the coming months and the situation could become more serious with the onset of the winter rains in the outbreak areas. Vigilant survey and monitoring as well as timely preventive control interventions are essential to avert potential serious outbreaks.

3. Different instar hoppers were controlled in the River Nile state, Sudan during the second dekad of November. More adults were sighted in the Red Sea coastal areas in northern Sudan and some swarms were reported to have crossed the Red Sea into Saudi Arabia. Egg laying was reported in southeastern Egypt and along the Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia and control operations were carried out against locust groups and swarms in both places. It is likely that more locusts will be seen breeding in areas of recent rainfall and where precipitation may occur during the forecast period. Other countries in the region will likely remain fairly calm during the forecast period.

4. Locust numbers remained insignificant in the eastern region outbreak areas along the Indo-Pakistan border and it is unlikely that this will change much during the forecast period.

**OTHER LOCUSTS AND  
GRASSHOPPERS.**

5. **Red locusts, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville):** No new information was received on red locusts at the time this report was compiled, but it is likely that limited activities might have occurred in Kafue Flats, Zambia. A few adult locusts that might have escaped control in Iku Katavi and Wembere plains may have regrouped and begun breeding. No major locust development is expected unless rain falls in the traditional outbreak areas during the forecast period. Routine survey and monitoring are encouraged to mitigate any significant development.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust or red locust in November. It is likely that ecological conditions will begin improving in

the traditional outbreak areas where some locust activities could begin appearing with the onset of the rains during the forecast period.

7. The *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper and *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), variegated grasshopper, season has ended and further activities were not expected or reported in November. No reports were received on *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker), tree locust, brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker) or other locusts in November. Unfavorable breeding conditions continued to persist in the brown locust ecozone in Namibia and South Africa during the month.

8. Italian locust, *Calliptamus italicus* (L), Moroccan locust, *Dociostaurus maroccanus* or migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratoria* activities in Central Asia ended a few months ago. Any eggs that were laid earlier will continue to remain dormant until next spring when hoppers will begin appearing.

9. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm activities were not reported in November in the traditional outbreak areas. The conditions will continue to remain calm during the forecast period. Active monitoring is essential.

10. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** Quelea birds were controlled on more than 265 ha in three localities in Amhara Region, northeastern Ethiopia between 10-18 November. Control operations were carried out with the help of the DLCO-EA spray aircraft. Quelea birds were also controlled on more than 7890 ha between October 19 and November 15 in several localities in central north and eastern regions, Sudan. A late received report indicated that several roosts

were controlled in October in the Limpopo, the North West, Free State, and Northern Cape Provinces, South Africa. Two quelea roosts were control in wheat fields in Zimbabwe. No further reports were received on quelea activities from the other outbreak countries in November. It is likely that quelea will continue posing a threat to crops in the outbreak areas. Regular survey and monitoring are essential to avert any serious bird damage. End of Summary.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

11. Most of the western and northwestern outbreak areas remained rainless in November. However, as a result of heavy rains that fell over large areas in October, conditions remained fairly favorable and locusts continued to breed and persist in parts of southern Morocco, northwestern Mauritania, southwestern Algeria and a few other places.

12. In November, light to moderate rains were recorded in a few places along the Red Sea coasts in southeastern Egypt, Sudan, northeastern Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia. Heavy rain was reported in the central Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. No rains were reported from the other countries in the region in November. However, it is likely that conditions will improve in several places in this region with the onset of the winter rain.

13. Dry conditions prevailed in the eastern region outbreak areas along the Indo-Pakistan borders. No improvement is likely during the forecast period.

14. Light to moderate rain (30-60 mm) was recorded in parts of eastern South Africa and northern Tanzania during the second dekad of

November. Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe reported light showers during this period. Meteorological data was not available for Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia at the time this report was compiled.

Moderate to heavy precipitations are expected in southern and central Mozambique, western Zambia and Zimbabwe and light rains may fall in Malawi. Light to moderate rain is likely in eastern South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and northern Namibia and dry conditions will likely prevail over most of Tanzania and Botswana during the very early part of the forecast period.

### DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

#### 15. Western and Northwestern Africa

**Outbreak Region:** The desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.) situation continued to further develop in northwestern Mauritania, northern Mali, southern Morocco, and Niger throughout November. Adult groups and hopper bands were seen in a number of places. Active control operations were carried in Senegal, Mauritania, Morocco, Mali, Niger, Algeria and Libya against mature and immature adults and/or hopper bands on some 28,000 ha. Other countries in the region remained fairly calm.

16. Forecast: It is likely that locust numbers could increase and give rise to more swarms and groups in the coming months and the situation could become more serious if conditions improve. Vigilant survey and monitoring as well as timely preventive control interventions are essential to avert any potential serious outbreaks.

17. **Eastern Africa, Northeastern Africa, and the Near East Outbreak Region:** Adult

locust populations and hoppers were controlled in the River Nile state, Sudan. Adult and immature locusts were sighted in southern Egypt and along the Red Sea coasts and controlled by ground means. Swarms were reported to have crossed the Red Sea into Saudi Arabia and started laying eggs along the central eastern coastal plains. Egg lying was also reported in southern Egypt. Control operations were undertaken in mid to late November against these pests and close to 16,000 ha were treated in total in Sudan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The situation was relatively calm in the other countries in these regions.

18. Forecast: More locusts are likely to be seen in these areas during the forecast period especially in areas of recent rainfall and areas that may receive rain during the upcoming winter season. Other countries in the region will likely remain relatively calm during the forecast period.

19. **Eastern Outbreak Region:** Locust numbers remained insignificant in the eastern region along the Indo-Pakistan border.

20. Forecast: Locust numbers are expected to remain low and insignificant in this region during the forecast period.

### OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

21. *Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss) (OES), the Senegalese grasshopper and *Zonocerus variegatus* (L), variegated grasshopper, season has ended and no activities were reported in November. No reports were received on *Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker), tree locust, brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker) and other migratory locusts in November. Unfavorable breeding conditions continued to persist in the brown locust

ecozone in southeastern Namibia and northwestern South Africa.

22. The locust season in Central Asia came to an end a couple of months ago. No locusts were expected or reported.

23. Forecast: The eggs that were laid in late summer/early fall will remain inactive till next spring. Hoppers of the Italian locust, *Calliptamus italicus* (L), Moroccan locust, *Dociostaurus maroccanus* or migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria migratoria* are likely to appear next spring.

**Note: Inadequate technical skills, resources and infrastructure will continue to impede the capacity of the Afghan national crop protection unit to conduct regular survey and monitoring as well as organize and launch control operations without external support. Thus, locust control in this country will continue to rely largely on external assistance for some time.**

24 **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No reports were received on ETOPs from LAC countries in November.

25. Forecast. Due to lack of sufficient information, a tangible forecast was not possible during the reporting month; however, some insignificant ETOP activities may appear here and there in the coming months.

26. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville):** No new information was received at the time this report was compiled, but it is likely that some breeding might have occurred in November in Kafue Flats, Zambia. A few adult locusts that might have escaped control in Iku Katavi and Wembere plains might have also regrouped and begun breeding.

27. **Forecast:** No major locust development is expected during the forecast period unless rain falls in the traditional outbreak areas -- Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi areas, Tanzania, Buzi-Gorongosa, Mozambique, Lake Chilwa plains, Malawi, and Kafue Flats, Zambia, but significant activities are not expected during the forecast period. Routine survey and monitoring are encouraged to avoid any major developments.

28. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** No report was received on the Madagascar migratory locust or red locust in November. It is likely that ecological conditions will begin improving in the traditional outbreak areas where some locust activities could begin appearing with the onset of the rains during the forecast period.

29. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker):** No reports were received on brown locusts in November. No major precipitation was recorded during the reporting month or earlier and it is likely that significant developments will not occur during the forecast period.

#### ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

30. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** The armyworm season had ended long ago and no reports were received in November.

31. Forecast: Armyworm activities may be seen in a few places in the traditional outbreak areas. Trap operators are encouraged to submit their weekly moth catches to their respective national forecasting officers.

#### QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

32. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** Quelea birds were controlled between 10-18 November in five roosting sites in Kewet,

Temuga and Efrata in Amhara Region, northeastern Ethiopia. More than 310 liters of avicides were sprayed over 265 ha using DLCO-EA spray aircraft. Quelea birds were also controlled on more than 7890 ha in several localities in El Ruka, El Renk, Kosti, El Demzine, Kassala, Abu-Gubeiha, Sinnar, and Gedarif, Sudan between October 19 and November 15. A late received report indicated that several roosts were controlled with cyanophos (Falcolan) near sorghum fields in the Limpopo Province and with explosives in the North West, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces, South Africa. Two quelea roosts were control in wheat fields in Zimbabwe. No further activities were reported from the other outbreak regions.

33. Forecast: Quelea birds are likely to continue being a problem to small grains in the traditional outbreak areas, in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. These birds are also likely to commence breeding in a few places. Regular survey and monitoring are essential to avert any serious bird damage during the forecast period.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Favorable ecological conditions gave rise to a considerable increase in the number of desert locust populations in Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Algeria, Sudan and Saudi Arabia and required control interventions. Quelea birds invoked control actions on a limited scale. If left unaddressed, such infestations could have further increased and inflicted serious damage to crops and pasture. Although, ecological conditions are expect to change, it is evident that a shift in the externalities of the ETOP ecosystem, such as end of the current drought and/or the dry spell could trigger massive pest invasions and significantly offset the already precarious food

security situation in most of the countries that live under a constant threat from ETOP outbreaks. **Hence, regular survey, monitoring, reporting and early preventive control interventions are recommended to avert any unexpected pest-related disaster.**

**The Assistance for Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Abatement project, formerly known as Africa Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) continuous monitoring the ETOP situation in close collaboration with its partners, including the UN/FAO-MPU, DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, EMPRES Regional Programs, host-country counterparts and others and provide regular updates.**

### ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

35. AELGA is managed by USAID, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office for U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). AELGA works closely and/or interacts with the UN/FAO, other international organizations, USAID bilateral and regional missions, DLCO-EA, IRLCO-CSA, host country ministries, and research establishments, and Southern Africa Development Community Drought Monitoring Center (SADC/DMC). Information on ETOPs and weather data are regularly collected from these and other sources, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP), to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks of large-scale emergency outbreaks, to compile and disseminate worldwide our monthly SITREPs. **Unsolicited reports and/or information on ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always warmly welcome and much appreciated.**



36. USAID field Missions with programs and portfolios on food security, agriculture, environment, conflict and related activities are solicited to encourage their host country counterparts and partners to forward to us any updates on ETOP activities as often as possible. FEWS field personnel are also solicited to send us any information they may obtain on ETOP activities in their countries and/or regions of responsibility. Regional organizations with mandates for ETOPS and host country partners are kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the forecasting months. **Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to:**

**Dr. Yene T. Belayneh:** [ybelayneh@ofda.net](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.net)  
**FAX: 202-347-0315 (USA).**

### USEFUL LINKS

**For more information on the weather conditions, you may visit the following web sites:**

<http://www.fews.net/http://www.fao.org/WAI/CENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/english/esahel/sehtoc.htm>

<http://www.fews.net>

**For more information on ETOP activities, you may visit:**

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuholm.htm/>

<http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/>

<http://www.web.agr.ac.uk/directory/NRI/pcs/>

<http://www-web.gre.ac.uk/directory/NRI/quel/>

<http://icosamp.ecoport.org/>  
<http://www.dmc.co.zm>

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE, VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.AELGA.NET](http://WWW.AELGA.NET)**

**P.S.: We are pleased to inform you that our web site is now up and running. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by the unexpected hiatus in our web service.**

### 37. UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control.**

 **Pesticide Stewardship Training**

**If interested, please contact:**

**Dr. Yene T. Belayneh, at [ybelayneh@ofda.net](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.net) or phone: 202-661-9374 and FAX: 202-347-0315 (USA)**

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